

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An article conveying apparatus for conveying and transferring articles between a plurality of article storage sections for storing the articles therein and a predetermined entry-and-exit port, the apparatus comprising:

a running truck body that runs along a track;

a platform provided with a transfer device that transfers the articles;

a ~~longitudinal~~ pair of raising and lowering poles connected to said running truck body and extending vertically therefrom to guide and support said platform ~~to be such that said platform is able to freely rise and lower;~~

a pair of raising and lowering ropescables each having one end connected to ~~an upper part of a corresponding one of the longitudinally opposite sides~~ end of an upper part of said platform to suspend and support said platform; and

a driving wheel for feeding and winding said pair of raising and lowering ~~ropescables~~, and raising and lowering said platform.

wherein said raising and lowering ropescables are ~~each guided from the upper part of the corresponding one of the longitudinally opposite sides~~ end of the upper part of said platform to a vicinity of a central portion of said running truck body via said driving wheel, and further guided vertically from the vicinity of the central portion of the running truck body to a vicinity of a central lower portion of said platform. the other end of each of said raising and lowering ropescables being connected to a vicinity of ~~[[a]]said center~~ central lower portion of said platform.

2. (currently amended) The article conveying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a tension setting device that sets a tension of said pair of raising and lowering ~~ropes~~cables is arranged in said platform.

3. (currently amended) The article conveying apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said tension setting device comprises:

a spring for setting the tension of each of said raising and lowering ~~ropes~~cables; and
an error detecting unit provided in said platform to detect an error in said raising and lowering ~~ropes~~cables on the basis of elongation of said spring.

4. (currently amended) The article conveying apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said tension setting device comprises:

a spring;
a moving member having one end connected to the other end of said raising and lowering rope and the other end connected to one end of said spring;
a setting jig connected to the other end of said spring to set the tension of said raising and lowering ~~rope~~cable; and
a detector for detecting, according to the moved distance of said moving member, that an error has occurred in elongation of said raising and lowering ~~rope~~cable and that said raising and lowering ~~rope~~cable has been cut.

5. (currently amended) The article conveying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said driving wheel is arranged at each of ~~longitudinally~~ opposite ends of said running truck body.

6. (currently amended) The article conveying apparatus according to claim 5, comprising:
a first guide wheel provided at a top portion of one of the raising and lowering poles to guide one of said pair of raising and lowering ~~ropes~~cables in a horizontal direction from one end of an upper part of said platform;

a pair of second guide wheels provided at a top portion of the other raising and lowering pole to guide downward one of the raising and lowering ~~ropescables~~ guided from said first guide wheel and to guide the other of the ~~ropescables~~ downward from the other end of the upper part of said platform;

a pair of third guide wheels provided at a bottom portion of said other raising and lowering pole to guide the pair of raising and lowering ~~ropescables~~ guided from said second guide wheel to said driving wheel; and

a pair of fourth guide wheels provided in ~~[[a]]~~said central portion of said running truck body to guide said pair of raising and lowering ~~ropescables~~ guided from said driving wheel to said vicinity of said central lower portion ~~a lower part of the center~~ of said platform.